

The following Associate members have been received since the last report: P. M. Silloway, Roodhouse, Ill. L. Whitney Watkins, Manchester, Mich.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Story of the Birds, by James Newton Baskett, M. A. This is the first of Appleton's Home Reading Books, which are edited by William T. Harris, A.M., L.L.D., United States Commissioner of Education. The body of the book covers 250 pages exclusive of index, editor's introduction, author's preface, and a very helpful "Analysis" of each chapter with suggestions for study. The Story of the Birds is told in thirty-two chapters or subjects, beginning with a discussion of "A Bird's Forefathers" running through the many problems of the bird's life up to his Modern Kinsfolk, ending with "An Introduction to the Bird" and "Acquaintance with the Bird." The Story is told in a pleasant easy manner, every point clearly stated, every statement based upon some accepted fact. The arrangement of the chapters is progressive and logical, and nothing of the first importance in the life history of the bird is omitted.

There are twenty full page illustrations, besides a full page cut of Archaeopteryx, and a very instructive diagram of the relationships of the larger groups; also some sixty-two well selected cuts in the text. The typographical appearance is unusually good, and errors are few.

The author's aim is rather to create and stimulate interest leading to personal study than to instruct. To awaken a lively interest in the living bird rather than in the specimen. To induce the inquirer to think out the problems which cluster about each action of the bird, not being content to simply discover some new trait or habit or song. To delve deep for those things which cannot be had for the asking, but which must be worked for earnestly and faithfully. This has induced the author to depart from the usual order, treating all of the birds as a unit instead of separating group from group. The new order is refreshing to the student, and cannot but prove stimulating to the beginner or casual enquirer. It is a departure in the right direction. The time has come when the critical study of specimens for the purpose of determining the exact status of any questionable species or form must be left to those who have access to the collections of large series of specimens which are built up for that purpose. We have urgent need to study the live bird and let it live for another to study. The author of this little book has shown us how to

study the bird and learn its story, in a simple natural manner, giving us of his experience as an enquirer of the birds about him in his everyday life. The book is published by D. Appleton & Co., New York City, and sold for \$.65.

Birds of the Galapagos Archipelago, by Robert Ridgway. From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. XIX, pages 459-670 (with Plates LVI-LVII.)

The Museum, Vol. III, Nos. 4 and 5, February and March, 1897. W. F. Webb, Albion, N. Y.

The Nidologist, Vol. IV, Nos. 6 and 7, February and March, 1897. H. R. Taylor, Alameda, California.

The Osprey, Vol. I, Nos. 6 and 7, February and March, 1897. Walter A. Johnson, Galesburg, Ill.

The Oologist, Vol. XIV, Nos. 2 and 3, February and March, 1897. Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, Vol. I, No. 1, January, 1897. L. Whitney Watkins, Manchester, Mich.

The Asa Gray Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 1, January, 1897. W. R. Kedzie, Agricultural College, Mich.

The Auk, Vol. XIV, No. 1, January, 1897, L. S. Foster, New York City.

The Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. III, No. 1, January, 1897. David L. Savage, Salem, Iowa.

WANTED! Clean, unbound back numbers of the *Auk*, and *Ornithologist and Oologist*. Will pay good cash prices for the right numbers.—HENRY R. BUCK, *Wethersfield, Conn.*